REPORT

OF

EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION (N. S.)

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31,

1974

QUEEN'S PRINTER
HALIFAX, N. S.

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TO HIS HONOUR

The Honourable Clarence Lloyd Gosse, M.D., C.M., F.R.C.S.

Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

I have the honour to submit herewith a Report of the Emergency Measures Organization (Nova Scotia) for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1974.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

Glen M. Bagnell,

Minister-in-Charge of Emergency Measures Organization (N.S.)

101-05129/

REPORT

OF

EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION

(NOVA SCOTIA)

For the Year Ending March 31, 1974

LEGISLATION

1. The Emergency Measures Organization (NS) continued to operate under the authority of the EMO Act, Chapter 87 RS of Nova Scotia 1967, and regulations promulgated under authority of that Act.

2. **AIMS**

a. Enhance the capability of municipalities to make provision for, and to react to emergencies within the community, and to provide assistance in emergencies to neighbouring communities.

b. Increase the capability of the government to provide assistance to municipalities in emergencies.

c. Continue to advance the government's approved activities in the field of war emergency measures.

3. EMO (NS) is a co-ordinating agency of government charged with the duty of insuring that plans and preparations are made at the provincial and municipal level to deal with emergencies and/or war measures affecting the safety of life and property. During the operational phase of an emergency, EMO (NS) co-ordinates the efforts of the provincial and federal government departments within the province and private health and welfare agencies to assist municipalities affected by the emergency.

ORGANIZATION

4. For the purpose of achieving its emergency measures aim, the province is divided into three zones with representatives at zone

headquarters in Kentville, Truro, and Sydney, whose duty is to assist the municipalities in plans and training for emergencies. There is a provincial office in Halifax with a small co-ordinating staff of planners and clerical staff charged with the duty of program planning and development. EMO (NS) has six staff members in zone offices, and eight at the provincial headquarters.

5. In August, 1973 the Honourable Glen M. Bagnell became Minister-in-charge-of Emergency Measures. E.M. Ogilvie, Staff Officer Plans and Training, moved to the Department of Agriculture. He was succeeded by R.H. Coell, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. J.A. Orlik retired in April after 12 years of service in EMO (NS).

OPERATIONS

6. Although Nova Scotia does not experience the severe flooding that occurs in other parts of Canada, EMO (NS) urges municipalities to plan the surveillance of rivers and streams, particularly those in the areas of Truro, Antigonish, New Glasgow-Pictou-Stellarton, Bridgewater, and Shubenacadie-Stewiacke.

7. During the year under review, no serious flooding was encountered. The Salmon River at Truro did rise and caused minor flooding; however, through surveillance, EMO was able to provide warning which enabled threatened installations to sandbag or otherwise protect their properties. No losses ensued.

8. In August the CNR ferry strike at North Sydney caused the dislocation of a large number of people. EMO, in concert with service organizations such as Salvation Army, Kinsmen, Knights of Columbus, etc., arranged emergency lodging, feeding, and provided stretchers and blankets for sleeping.

9. In September, during the threat of a strike by hospital nurses, Emergency Health Services (EHS) made plans for the evacuation of patients to various hospitals outside the metropolitan area.

10. The blizzard of February 5 caused widespread inconvenience but no dire results. Some municipalities used snowmobiles for emergency services; however, there was no requirement for intervention by EMO (NS).

11. On March 5, severe winds ripped the roofs off six new duplexes in Glace Bay. Glace Bay and Dominion EMO arranged emergency feeding and housing for 65 residents.

12. Preliminary discussions and meetings were held by the Municipalities of Argyle, Yarmouth, and the County of Yarmouth to investigate the formation of an emergency communication centre, similar to that of the County of Lunenburg. It would provide a 24-hour reception centre for emergency calls, with radio communication to all municipal fire, police, and medical emergency services. A consensus to proceed with this organization was reached. This will be the second group of municipalities to so organize their emergency services. It is hoped this will provide the impetus to other municipalities to so organize as it is the most efficient and economical use of emergency services.

13. EMO (NS) is the co-ordinating agency for requests for assistance to the province from federal departments of government. The Department of National Defence provides air transport assistance to the provincial government when this request does not conflict with services normally available through commercial sources. It also provides emergency air evacuation in cases of a humanitarian nature to save lives or to relieve suffering. In addition to 17 mercy flights involving cases of an emergency medical air transport nature, services provided by the Department of National Defence throughout the year were:

a. May 24/73 – A helicopter was provided to assist in the search for a man lost in the woods near Meteghan, Digby County. The man was not found.

b. June 11/73 – Airlift was provided to the Department of Lands and Forests to ferry men and equipment to the area of Five Islands, Halifax County for forest fire fighting operations.

c. June 25/73 – Provided a volunteer ground search party to assist in the search for a man lost in the woods near Eastern Passage. The man's body was found in the woods.

d. October 22/73 – A helicopter was provided to assist in the search for a man lost in the woods near Baddeck,

Cape Breton. The man was found by ground search party.

e. October 28/73 – Provided a ground search party to assist in the search for a man lost in the woods near South Milford, Annapolis County. The man was found dead.

f. November 26/73 – A helicopter was provided to assist in the search for two men lost in the woods near Baddeck, Cape Breton. The two men came out on their own the following day.

g. January 30/74 – Provided a 1,000 gallon water tanker to the Town of Windsor for seven days to ensure the Windsor Hospital had pure water. During this period the Windsor water supply was contaminated with a high degree of sediment due to a construction accident at the reservoir.

TRAINING

14. Canadian Emergency Measures College

Canada EMO conducts training courses at the Canadian Emergency Measures College, Arnprior, Ontario. The courses are both of a general and advanced nature in all 26 of the activities of the Canada Emergency Measures program. Canada EMO pays for all expenses of students attending the college. During 1973, students from the Province of Nova Scotia attended CEMC courses as follows:

Activity	Number of Students Attending
Management and Control	22
Government Organization	6
RBC Service	2
Emergency Health	12
Emergency Social Services	4
Agriculture	4
Total Attendance	50

15. **Provincial Training**

Courses and instructions in emergency measures are carried out at the provincial level at the Regional Emergency Government Headquarters, Camp Debert, at Zone Headquarters, and in the municipalities. Courses of instructions were conducted by EMO (NS) personnel as follows:

Activity	Number of Students Attending
Management and Control	266
Government Organization	188
Emergency Health	416
Emergency Social Services	180
Emergency Communications	65
Rescue	68
Total Attendance	1,183

16. EMO (NS) controllers gave lectures and film presentations to a number of groups, including students, nurses, radio, service and municipal clubs, municipal councils, and emergency planning committees.

17. Municipal disaster exercises were conducted at New Glasgow, Tatamagouche, Shelburne, Sydney, North Sydney, New Waterford, and Port Hawkesbury. It is the consensus that such exercises are the best means to stimulate municipal emergency planning.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

18. This activity provides for the continuity of government authority and the organization of essential government functions in an emergency. It requires the development of policies and plans covering the functioning of provincial departments, commissions, agencies, and municipal governments in all types of emergencies. For war contingency it involves the preparation of plans for relocation of government elements to emergency government headquarters, the establishment of operational procedures, state of readiness, and contingency plans.

19. Emergency government headquarters have been established as follows:

a. Regional Provincial Emergency Government Headquarters (REGHQ) at Camp Debert, Nova Scotia

b. Regional Relocation Unit (RRU) in support of the (REGHQ) at the Teachers' College, Truro, Nova Scotia

c. Western Zone Emergency Government Headquarters (ZEGHQ) at Kentville, Nova Scotia

d. Central Zone Emergency Government Headquarters (ZEGHQ) at Truro, Nova Scotia

e. Cape Breton Zone Emergency Government Headquarters (ZEGHQ) at Sydney, Nova Scotia

f. Municipal Emergency Government Headquarters (MEGHQ) would be established at the municipal level, co-ordinated by the ZEGHQ's

20. EMO (NS) in concert with Canada EMO and Maritime Command (Atlantic Region) conducted a warning and manning exercise of the Regional Emergency Government Headquarters at Camp Debert. This gave the opportunity to examine and study the procedures for the operation of the headquarters.

21. In March, 1974, a Nova Scotia Disaster Committee meeting was held at EMO (NS) Headquarters. The Committee, chaired by the Director EMO (NS), reviewed its terms of reference and present operating procedures.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

22. During the year, EMO (NS) carried out a number of information activities to inform the public of its program and activities. These included production of the quarterly EMO Bulletin, press releases, and photography. In addition, an arrangement with the Nova Scotia Communications and Information Centre was made to use their transmission facilities to distribute public announcements to the provincial radio and television stations and daily newspapers.

23. The public information program will be continued to foster greater public understanding of EMO objectives and activities

through brochures and booklets, public addresses, and the news media.

RBC SERVICE

24. The objectives of the RBC Service are to develop procedures for communities to deal with accidents involving dangerous materials and to maintain a capability of evaluating the radiological hazards resulting from nuclear war.

25. EMO (NS) maintains a province-wide reporting network for evaluating the effects of nuclear fallout in war emergency, and maintains the necessary radiation detection equipment for this purpose. It also assists the Department of Public Health and the municipal and commercial agencies in assessing radiation hazards resulting from accidents involving the transportation and commercial use of radio isotopes.

26. Radiation monitoring courses were conducted at the local level and some candidates were trained at the Canadian Emergency Measures College, Arnprior.

27. During the year, EMO (NS) initiated research into methods for dealing with transportation and industrial accidents involving dangerous chemicals. The intent of this research was to develop procedures for community emergency services in identifying and containing the hazards so as to protect the general public.

28. A study of the threat to public safety from a possible massive escape of hydrogen sulphide (H_2S) gas used in the heavy water production process at the CGE Plant, Point Tupper, was conducted during the year.

29. The exacting safety standards required in the H_2S production process render the probability of a gas escape endangering persons outside the plant boundaries extremely remote. Individual protection from the gas is both simple and effective, requiring the closing of building or automobile doors and windows to seal off outside air. Effective action is, of course, dependent upon a public alarm. Negotiations for the installation and operation of a distinctive alarm at the CGE Plant have started and should be in effect in 1974. Similar and even more effective safety measures, incorporating a plant boundary flare system, will be installed in the Glace Bay heavy water plant.

30. EMO (NS) has been consulting with the Department of Environment, together with the Canadian Environment Protection Service and the petroleum industry regarding a common petroleum spill containment and cleanup procedure.

EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES

31. This was an active year for Emergency Health Services. Community emergency health planning was emphasized and exercises were held in New Glasgow, Tatamagouche, Shelburne, Digby, Sydney, North Sydney, Port Hawkesbury, and New Waterford. Many more are planned for 1974. Nursing participation in these exercises was excellent.

32. Two seminars on emergency health nursing were held in Camp Debert; these were well attended. The discussions that took place at these seminars indicate that the nurses of this province have a real appreciation of the importance of planning and preparation before an emergency, and the need for nurses to assume a leadership role.

33. There was an increase in requests to participate in in-service programs which was found very encouraging.

34. Twelve nurses attended courses at the Canadian Emergency Measures College, Arnprior.

35. Mrs. Lorraine Davies, R.N., B.N., Federal Emergency Health Services Nursing Consultant, visited Halifax in January and met with faculty members from all schools of nursing. She presented the findings of the Disaster Nursing Study carried out in 1972. It is a matter of some pride that Nova Scotia leads Canada in the field of disaster nursing preparedness.

36. The nurse consultant attended the Federal Provincial Conference of Emergency Health Services Directors in October, 1973.

37. Work on the Provincial Crash Counter Measures Committee continued and recommendations for dealing with education for safety were presented to the Minister of Highways. This committee reported in early January and now awaits implementaion of some of these recommendations to reduce highway fatalities.

EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES

38. The Department of Social Services maintains a full-time officer as Director of Emergency Social Services. The department's responsibility in this field is to develop and maintain a provincial capability to provide emergency social services essential for survival, i.e. emergency lodging, clothing, feeding, personnel services, and registration and inquiry. In addition to this, plans are maintained to continue essential social services programs in emergencies.

39. Community emergency social services programs are the responsibility of the government's field units. The front lines of the department's emergency programs are centered upon community emergency welfare centres operated by local representatives from the provincial unit staff in co-operation with volunteer agencies such as Red Cross and the local school boards. Most welfare centres are located in community schools.

40. During the past years continued efforts have been made to train and exercise community welfare centres in conjunction with community disaster exercises.

41. Evacuation and relocation plans are being developed for the four Children's Training Centres (Digby, Pictou, Dartmouth and Sydney) in co-operation with the Emergency Measures Organization of each community. Digby completed a successful exercise March 6, 1974, and dates have been set for an exercise at Pictou on May 7, 1974, and at Sydney on June 18, 1974.

42. Similar evacuation and relocation plans are underway for other homes for special care under the Department of Social Services jurisdiction.

FIRE DEFENCE

43. The objective of this activity is to reduce fire vulnerability and to co-ordinate fire fighting operations throughout the province.

44. The Hose Coupling Standardization program was completed. This program was started in 1963 on a 50 per cent cost sharing basis with the federal government. The approximate cost of this

program on completion was $185,000. This program ensures that all municipalities and their respective fire departments are on the Canada Standard, and can thus provide effective mutual fire fighting assistance.

FALLOUT PROTECTION

45. During the summer of 1973, Canada EMO, on behalf of the federal government, sponsored a space usability survey across Canada to assist in compilation of community shelter plans. EMO (NS) was allocated 61 university students who completed 75 per cent of the buildings selected for the shelter program. The province was granted $85,000 for this program by the federal government.

46. In addition, these students carried out a municipal resources survey tabulating all local resources which could be used in any emergency. This program will culminate in the production of an emergency resources register for each municipality.

RESCUE

47. The EMO (NS) Ground Search and Rescue program was inaugurated in the fall of 1973. An initial organizational phase was undertaken, followed by training.

48. Cape Breton Island is well covered by the Cape Breton Search and Rescue Association, who have affiliated themselves with EMO (NS) in this project. This organization has conducted a number of searches this year.

49. The Eastern Counties (Guysborough, Antigonish, and Pictou) are covered by the Regional Forest Management Committee Search Units and are sponsored by the pulp and paper industry.

50. Team training has commenced at Waterville, Kings County, Yarmouth, Springhill, and Tatamagouche, and is due to be completed by the fall, 1974. Training will be started in other centres in 1974 to complete the coverage of the province.